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4 MAR 1963

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S E C R E T.

From NPIC

RELEASABLE FROM SSO CHANNELS. SSOS

PASS TO APPROPRIATE TCOS. FROM NPIC. MESSAGE IN THREE PARTS.
CITE OPCEN 3817.

PART 1. THE PRESENT USE OF ALPHABETIC UNIT DESIGNATORS OR PROJECT LETTERS AS A PREFIX TO MISSION NUMBERS HAS ELICITED NUMEROUS QUERIES, THE ANSWER TO WHICH TOUCH ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS. MANY OF THESE QUERIES EMANATE FROM THE FIELD WHERE UNITS AND PERSONNEL ARE USING DOWNGRADED MATERIAL AND ARE NOT CLEARED FOR BASIC PROJECT.

PART 2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE PLUS FACT THAT CERTAIN NUMBER BLOCKS BELOW 10,000 WILL SOON HAVE BEEN USED IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT RATHER THAN USING UNIT DESIGNATORS AS PREFIX THAT STRAIGHT NUMBERS BE USED WITHIN ASSIGNED BLOCKS (I.E. 9000 FOR KEYHOLE). WHENEVER A MISSION NUMBER MUST BE REUSED AT A LATER DATE IT WOULD THEN BE SUFFIXED WITH THE LETTER "B" TO INDICATE THE USE OF THAT MISSION NUMBER FOR THE SECOND TIME (I.E. 9029 AND 9029B). THE LETTER "A" SHOULD NOT BE USED AS IT ALREADY SERVES ANOTHER PURPOSE.

PART 3. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS TYPE NUMBERING WOULD SIMPLIFY AND MAKE MORE FLEXIBLE MISSION NUMBERING, NEGATE MANY QUERIES, AND AID IN DOWNGRADING.

SCP-1

~~SECRET~~downgrading and
declassification